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(Washington, D.C.) – U.S. Representative Chet Edwards was recently honored by the United States Army with the Commander's Award for Civilian Service, given to only one Member of Congress for service to America's military families. The award was presented by Geoffrey G. Prosch, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army.

"It is a privilege to work alongside the Army to improve quality of life for America's troops and their families, and I am deeply humbled by this honor," said Edwards. "We must continue to ensure that the principled service and sacrifice of America's military families is honored with first class housing, health care, and benefits."

Congressman Edwards led the fight for an innovative public-private military housing program known as the Residential Communities Initiative (RCI) that has been called the most important military housing improvement program in our nation's history. And after successfully fighting Pentagon efforts to eliminate two active duty Army divisions in 2003, Congressman Edwards was honored by the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) with their "Legislator of the Year Award".

Since becoming Chairman of the House Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee in 2007, Edwards has continued to fight for improvements to housing, and training facilities on U.S. military bases. Chairman Edwards played a key role in enacting the 21st Century GI Bill of Rights into law that will cover the full cost of a college education for our troops, and authored legislation increasing veterans' health care and benefits by \$16.3 billion, the largest veterans funding increase in the history of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

The Commander's Award for Civilian Service Award reads:

For his exceptionally distinguished service as Ranking member and Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and as Co-Chair of the House Army Caucus.

Chairman Edwards always placed the Quality of Life and Care for Our Soldiers, Families, and Wounded Warriors #1. As the original Champion in Congress of the Army's Residential Communities Initiative (RCI), he pioneered the re-capitalization of the over 90,000 homes in the Army housing inventory.